



Write a thank you poem for key workers

Watch the video with poet Laura Mucha and use this worksheet to write a poem saying thank you to key workers.

You will need:

- paper
- pencil

Step 1. Collect ideas

As you watch the video, press pause when Laura asks you to and stand up! Imagine you're one of the key workers she has been talking about and answer the following questions:

What are you wearing, holding or doing?

Who are you with?

Where are you?

What does your job involve?

How do you feel?

Do you like any of the words she lists in the film? If so, add them to your list.

Don't worry about spelling or neatness or whether your ideas are any good or not. We're collecting ideas and words at the moment, there's no right or wrong.

Can you think of any key workers who Laura hasn't mentioned? Imagine you are one of them and think about what your job might involve.

Step 2. Speak to a key worker

Do you know any key workers? If so, can you ask them what it feels like to do their job? Write notes as you speak to them. What they say might make its way into your poem.

Step 3. Write the poem

Think of your poem as a letter, with the title *Dear Key Workers* and the last line *Thank you*. In the body of the poem, try writing sentences beginning with "you" to describe what key workers do. It should look a little like this:

Dear Key Workers

You...

You...

You...

[Lots more sentences beginning with You...]

Thank you.

Go through the words you have come up with so far and look for doing words – then try writing sentences with as many ideas as possible.

For example, one sentence might be: *You grow vegetables*. Don't stop there! Try to think of *all* the things key workers might grow: *You grow vegetables, animals, and imaginations...*

If starting the sentences with "you" isn't working out, try something else. Sentences could start with "I" or "It must be", for example.

Step 4. Editing

Now that you've done some excellent writing, it's time to start editing! Ask yourself:

1. **Who exactly are you thanking in your poem** – if it's all key workers, have you included all of the ones we've talked about?
2. **Can you see any patterns in what you've written** – do you want to play with them?
3. **Are there any lazy words you think could work harder?**
4. **Have you chosen any words just because they rhyme** (even though they don't actually fit in the poem)?
5. **Are there any words you can cut generally?**

6. Do you have some emotion in there?

When you think you have finished, try showing it to a key worker if you know one, and ask what they think. But remember, this is your poem, so if you don't like someone's comments, you can ignore them!

Sharing your poem

When you have finished your poem, take a moment to feel very proud of yourself as it is bound to be a brilliant piece of writing!

Why not give it to all the key workers you know? Why not send it to your teacher? Whatever you do with your poem, make sure you write another one!